



...and another thing

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1st Quarter 2006

We don't like to repeat ourselves because it's a sure sign of ignorance, and if we've said that once, we've said it a thousand times. But as we've said before, people continue to move to Las Vegas in droves. Why? Is it the job market? The beautiful climate? The numerous recreational opportunities? The attractive, devilishly clever city employees? All of those, okay, most of those reasons apply.

But could it be something else? Could one reason for moving to Las Vegas be something city residents don't get? Compared to other cities, Las Vegas residents don't get taxed to death. The Clark County Assessor's Office compiled a list of 51 cities and the major taxes incurred for a family of four with an annual household income of \$50,000. Thirteen of those cities, including Las Vegas, are listed below.

Overall, Las Vegas had a lower tax burden in 2004 than all but three of the 51 cities surveyed. Nevada is among a handful of states that has no income tax. As for property taxes, even with the recent increases in the price of a home, Las Vegas ranks in the lower half of cities for the amount paid. The amount of sales tax paid for comparable items was less, in some cases by nearly half, in Las Vegas than other cities. You pay a little more automobile tax in Las Vegas than some other cities, but since you saved so much in the other categories you probably drive a much nicer car than residents of the other cities. So unless you want to winter in Anchorage and burn your Elvis nightlight for months at a time, your best bet is Las Vegas.

Estimated burden of major taxes for a family of four, 2004*

Household Income of \$50,000

City	State	Income Tax	Property Tax	Sale Tax	Auto Tax	Total of Taxes	Taxes as % of Income
Philadelphia	PA	\$ 3,146	\$ 2,131	\$ 728	\$ 232	\$ 6,237	12.47%
New York	NY	\$ 2,479	\$ 2,579	\$ 915	\$ 171	\$ 6,144	12.29%
Newark	NJ	\$ 616	\$ 4,448	\$ 731	\$ 168	\$ 5,963	11.93%
Providence	RI	\$ 967	\$ 3,128	\$ 781	\$ 612	\$ 5,488	10.98%
Portland	OR	\$ 3,004	\$ 2,203	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ 5,398	10.80%
Los Angeles	CA	\$ 154	\$ 3,380	\$ 849	\$ 336	\$ 4,719	9.44%
Salt Lake City	UT	\$ 1,938	\$ 1,414	\$ 962	\$ 294	\$ 4,608	9.22%
Albuquerque	NM	\$ 963	\$ 1,643	\$ 1,069	\$ 165	\$ 3,840	7.68%
Denver	CO	\$ 1,289	\$ 916	\$ 911	\$ 279	\$ 3,395	6.79%
Phoenix	AZ	\$ 809	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,205	\$ 207	\$ 3,321	6.64%
Memphis	TN	\$ -	\$ 1,668	\$ 1,339	\$ 213	\$ 3,220	6.44%
Las Vegas	NV	\$ -	\$ 1,485	\$ 751	\$ 361	\$ 2,597	5.19%
Anchorage	AK	\$ -	\$ 2,055	\$ -	\$ 86	\$ 2,141	4.28%

Source:

* Clark County Assessor

"...and another thing" is prepared by Richard Wassmuth, Statistical Analyst. For more information, contact Tina Past, 702-229-2343 tpast@lasvegasnevada.gov.

ESTIMATED BURDEN OF MAJOR TAXES FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR 2004 WITH \$50,000 INCOME

Rank	City	State	Income	Property	Sales	Auto	Total Tax Amount	Percent
1	Philadelphia	PA	\$ 3,146	\$ 2,131	\$ 728	\$ 232	\$ 6,237	12.47%
2	New York	NY	\$ 2,479	\$ 2,579	\$ 915	\$ 171	\$ 6,144	12.29%
3	Newark	NJ	\$ 616	\$ 4,448	\$ 731	\$ 168	\$ 5,963	11.93%
4	Bridgeport	CT	\$ 500	\$ 4,052	\$ 811	\$ 456	\$ 5,819	11.64%
5	Baltimore	MD	\$ 2,242	\$ 2,398	\$ 824	\$ 217	\$ 5,681	11.36%
6	Providence	RI	\$ 967	\$ 3,128	\$ 781	\$ 612	\$ 5,488	10.98%
7	Portland	OR	\$ 3,004	\$ 2,203	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ 5,398	10.80%
8	Detroit	MI	\$ 2,564	\$ 1,749	\$ 727	\$ 212	\$ 5,252	10.50%
9	Indianapolis	IN	\$ 1,892	\$ 2,390	\$ 809	\$ 129	\$ 5,220	10.44%
10	Milwaukee	WI	\$ 1,612	\$ 2,484	\$ 766	\$ 245	\$ 5,107	10.21%
11	Portland	ME	\$ 1,340	\$ 2,731	\$ 621	\$ 264	\$ 4,956	9.91%
12	Atlanta	GA	\$ 1,381	\$ 2,366	\$ 971	\$ 231	\$ 4,949	9.90%
13	Chicago	IL	\$ 1,145	\$ 2,303	\$ 1,108	\$ 310	\$ 4,866	9.73%
14	Louisville	KY	\$ 2,949	\$ 908	\$ 764	\$ 232	\$ 4,853	9.71%
15	Los Angeles	CA	\$ 154	\$ 3,380	\$ 849	\$ 336	\$ 4,719	9.44%
16	Columbus	OH	\$ 2,261	\$ 1,394	\$ 835	\$ 224	\$ 4,714	9.43%
17	Boston	MA	\$ 1,993	\$ 2,124	\$ 391	\$ 206	\$ 4,714	9.43%
18	Salt Lake City	UT	\$ 1,938	\$ 1,414	\$ 962	\$ 294	\$ 4,608	9.22%
19	Washington	DC	\$ 2,185	\$ 1,342	\$ 811	\$ 245	\$ 4,583	9.17%
20	Des Moines	IA	\$ 1,466	\$ 1,702	\$ 908	\$ 334	\$ 4,410	8.82%
21	Kansas City	MO	\$ 1,983	\$ 1,093	\$ 961	\$ 350	\$ 4,387	8.77%
22	Omaha	NE	\$ 1,169	\$ 1,929	\$ 944	\$ 284	\$ 4,326	8.65%
23	Charlotte	NC	\$ 1,770	\$ 1,339	\$ 857	\$ 249	\$ 4,215	8.43%
24	Minneapolis	MN	\$ 1,495	\$ 1,684	\$ 748	\$ 233	\$ 4,160	8.32%
25	Oklahoma City	OK	\$ 1,741	\$ 1,020	\$ 1,132	\$ 204	\$ 4,097	8.19%
26	Burlington	VT	\$ 974	\$ 2,197	\$ 722	\$ 180	\$ 4,073	8.15%
27	Virginia Beach	VA	\$ 1,695	\$ 1,252	\$ 832	\$ 277	\$ 4,056	8.11%
28	Little Rock	AR	\$ 1,576	\$ 999	\$ 1,151	\$ 296	\$ 4,022	8.04%
29	Honolulu	HI	\$ 1,923	\$ 1,138	\$ 601	\$ 280	\$ 3,942	7.88%
30	Birmingham	AL	\$ 2,303	\$ 405	\$ 979	\$ 247	\$ 3,934	7.87%
31	Charleston	SC	\$ 1,697	\$ 935	\$ 854	\$ 373	\$ 3,859	7.72%
32	Albuquerque	NM	\$ 963	\$ 1,643	\$ 1,069	\$ 165	\$ 3,840	7.68%
33	Jackson	MS	\$ 1,002	\$ 1,228	\$ 1,074	\$ 498	\$ 3,802	7.60%
34	Boise	ID	\$ 1,429	\$ 1,142	\$ 865	\$ 234	\$ 3,670	7.34%
35	Columbia	SC	\$ 1,490	\$ 1,094	\$ 689	\$ 367	\$ 3,640	7.28%
36	New Orleans	LA	\$ 1,225	\$ 1,044	\$ 1,177	\$ 162	\$ 3,608	7.22%
37	Fargo	ND	\$ 577	\$ 2,046	\$ 737	\$ 206	\$ 3,566	7.13%
38	Seattle	WA	\$ -	\$ 2,146	\$ 1,038	\$ 377	\$ 3,561	7.12%
39	Manchester	NH	\$ -	\$ 3,015	\$ 316	\$ 187	\$ 3,518	7.04%
40	Wilmington	DE	\$ 1,757	\$ 1,534	\$ -	\$ 170	\$ 3,461	6.92%
41	Denver	CO	\$ 1,289	\$ 916	\$ 911	\$ 279	\$ 3,395	6.79%
42	Wichita	KS	\$ 1,364	\$ 790	\$ 842	\$ 338	\$ 3,334	6.67%
43	Phoenix	AZ	\$ 809	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,205	\$ 207	\$ 3,321	6.64%
44	Houston	TX	\$ -	\$ 2,041	\$ 1,063	\$ 190	\$ 3,294	6.59%
45	Memphis	TN	\$ -	\$ 1,668	\$ 1,339	\$ 213	\$ 3,220	6.44%
46	Sioux Falls	SD	\$ -	\$ 1,541	\$ 1,083	\$ 201	\$ 2,825	5.65%
47	Billings	MT	\$ 1,290	\$ 1,181	\$ -	\$ 299	\$ 2,770	5.54%
48	Las Vegas	NV	\$ -	\$ 1,485	\$ 751	\$ 361	\$ 2,597	5.19%
49	Anchorage	AK	\$ -	\$ 2,055	\$ -	\$ 86	\$ 2,141	4.28%
50	Jacksonville	FL	\$ -	\$ 880	\$ 859	\$ 216	\$ 1,955	3.91%
51	Cheyenne	WY	\$ -	\$ 739	\$ 989	\$ 210	\$ 1,938	3.88%